

Paul R. LePage

# STATE OF MAINE OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR 1 STATE HOUSE STATION AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

September 9, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama President of the United States The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20500

Through:

Mr. Don Boyce, Regional Administrator

FEMA Region One 99 High Street, 6th Floor Boston, MA, 02110

### Dear President Obama:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for Franklin, Oxford and York Counties in the State of Maine as a result of Tropical Storm Irene, which impacted the State with high winds, heavy rainfall, storm surge and riverine, coastal and small stream flooding during the time period of August 27 through 29, 2011.

According to the National Weather Service, on Sunday, August 28, 2011 Hurricane Irene made landfall across western Long Island, New York and was downgraded to a Tropical Storm as it moved into and through New England. The storm brought a prolonged period of strong and gusty winds and heavy rain to Maine. The high winds snapped or uprooted numerous trees throughout the state causing more than 300,000 customers to lose electrical and/or communication services. The heavy rains caused rivers and streams in Western Maine to flood causing damage to bridges, roads, and property.

The strongest winds across the state began Sunday morning in southern areas and spread northward during the day. Observed maximum wind gusts included 56 mph at Augusta, 52 mph at Portland, 45 mph at Lewiston, and 44 mph at Fryeburg. The combination of wet soil and the prolonged period of strong and gusty winds brought down numerous trees throughout the state, on power lines and across roads.

Rainfall amounts across the state ranged from 1 to 3 inches along the coast to 3 to 7 inches across most of the remainder of western Maine with the heaviest precipitation falling in the mountains. In the mountains, much of the rain fell within a period of only several hours causing serious flash flooding of rivers and streams across Oxford, Franklin, and Somerset Counties.



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Several bridges and roads were washed out or damaged by flash floods. In addition, runoff from the heavy rains caused damage to nearby counties in western Maine. Observed precipitation amounts included between 6 and 7 inches at Phillips and Andover, and between 5 and 6 inches at Temple, Kingfield, Sumner, and Hartford. The Wild River at Gilead in Oxford County had a record crest of 17.42 feet.

Throughout the period, hundreds of roads were closed as flooded roadways, washouts and fallen trees disrupted Maine's rural transportation systems. The Maine Department of Transportation reported more than 200 roads closed or restricted at the peak of the storm. County Emergency Management Agencies reported many more local roads closed, some for several days because of debris or washouts. Major routes were affected, most notably Route 27 which serves the Sugarloaf region, and is a major commerce thoroughfare from Canada. Two bridges were destroyed, isolating the region and forcing a 60-mile-long detour for many travelers.

High winds also caused thousands of power outages and damage to lines and poles during the rain event. Power outages were estimated to peak at 300,000 homes and businesses. Power restoration was not complete for almost a week. During that time, the last full week of Maine's tourist season, many businesses were forced to close. Many visitors to Maine cut their vacations short, depriving hotels and campgrounds of important revenue.

Homes and businesses were also impacted in the four counties. At least 15 shelters were opened, with another 17 on standby. It is estimated that several hundred people took advantage of these services. We are working with the volunteer community to offer tree removal, basement cleanups or other assistance as needed, and continue to assess the impact of the storm on homes and businesses.

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under State law. I directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan on August 23, 2011 in accordance with Section 401 of the Stafford Act. The State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated at Level 2 (partial staffing) on August 26, and at level 3 (full activation) on August 28. I declared a State of Emergency on Friday, August 26, in order to ensure that all the resources of the State were available to assist in the response. On August 31, 2011, I requested a joint Federal, State, and local Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) of the damaged areas. Town and state agency reports of damages, verified by the PDA, equate to over \$2.4 million, \$1.83 per capita statewide. Preliminary assessments show the most severe impact was to roads, culverts and bridges in the affected counties, although all categories of infrastructure incurred damage. Significant costs were also incurred for debris clearance and emergency protective measures. The per capita impact in town after town is calculated in the tens and hundreds of dollars, as set out in Enclosure B. We believe that damage in several locations was reduced because of past mitigation efforts.

Two deaths have been attributed to this event, from carbon monoxide poisoning during the extended power outage. The cost of this disaster falls on state and local budgets already

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adversely affected by a nationwide recession and further exhausted by the convergent effects of eleven major disasters in the last five years, including three in the last eighteen months.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected governments and that supplementary Federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Public Assistance, Hazard Mitigation and Small Business Administration assistance (as applicable under the Public Assistance Program) at this time for Franklin, Oxford and York Counties. I intend to implement the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide. The State has a FEMA-approved Standard State Mitigation Plan in place, approved as of October 27, 2010.

In addition, I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health, and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b and 5173, the State agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

Preliminary estimates of the types and amount of assistance needed under the Stafford Act are tabulated in Enclosure B. Estimated requirements for assistance from certain Federal agencies under other statutory authorities are tabulated in Enclosure C. Federal agencies that have assisted the State to this date include the Department of Commerce, National Weather Service; Department of the Interior, US Geological Survey, Maine Water Science Center; Department of Defense, Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer; US Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration; and the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency Incident Management Assistance Team; DHS Customs and Border Patrol and US Coast Guard liaisons.

State, local and private resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster include: repairs to the Federal Aid Highway System and state highways and bridges, temporary repair assistance to local governments, and damage assessment by the Maine Department of Transportation; infrastructure repairs and debris clearance by local public works departments; dam safety assessments and operations by public utilities; dam safety inspections by the Maine Emergency Management Agency; alerting, warning and traffic control by the Department of Public Safety, Department of Transportation and county and local public safety agencies; emergency assistance to private citizens by local responders and volunteer agencies; emergency shelter operations by the American Red Cross and local governments; emergency coordination and damage assessment by the Department of Conservation, Maine Forest Service, Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, Maine Emergency Management Agency and affected County Emergency Management Agencies and assistance to affected families by social service and voluntary agencies.

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I certify that for this major disaster, the State, Tribal and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. Total State and local expenditures are expected to exceed \$609,000 in accordance with the table in Enclosure D.

I have designated Robert McAleer as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency in damage assessments and may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage

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Governor

# ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Individual Assistance under the Stafford Act

Information requested in this Enclosure is **Not Applicable** to this request.

County	Assistance to	Other Programs				
	Temporary Housing	Repairs	Replacement	Permanent Housing Construction	Other Assistance	( Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Legal Services, and Crisis Counseling)

# ENCLOSURE B

# Estimated Requirements for Public Assistance

# Stafford Act Showing per Capita Impact In Jurisdictions Surveyed by Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment Teams

		Total								
County/Town	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	Damage Estimate	2010 POP	Damage per Capita
Franklin County		-								
Avon		\$1,000	\$16,643					\$17,643	581	30.37
Carrabassett Valley		\$2,000	\$10,000				\$478,000	\$490,000	565	867.26
Jay		\$2,819						\$2,819	4,741	0.59
Kingfield		\$26,000	\$61,632				\$21,312	\$108,944	1,174	92.80
New Vineyard	\$500		\$5,000					\$5,500	786	7.00
Phillips		\$2,984	\$180,109					\$183,093	1,118	163.77
Rangeley	\$3,006	\$1,924			\$469			\$5,399	1,326	4.07
Sandy River Plantation			\$60,970	- "				\$60,970	93	655.59
Strong	\$2,000	\$1,759						\$3,759	1,259	2.99
Weld		\$5,000	\$22,346					\$27,346	404	67.69
Maine DOT	\$21,000	\$6,500						\$27,500		
County Totals	\$26,506	\$49,986	\$356,700	\$0	\$469	\$0	\$499,312	\$932,973	30,768	30.32
Oxford County		\$2,000	\$105,183					\$107,183		
Andover		\$1,500	\$25,497					\$26,997	910	\$29.67
Buckfield	\$3,000	\$4,500	\$1,500					\$9,000	1,985	\$4.53
Byron	\$6,500		\$12,200					\$18,700	121	\$154.55
Denmark	\$4,793	\$3,750			\$1,000		\$300	\$9,843	1,101	\$8.94
Dixfield	\$600	\$170				\$3,500	\$3,000	\$7,270	2,620	\$2.77
Greenwood	\$500	\$1,500				. ,		\$2,000	811	\$2.47
Lovell	\$1,140	\$504						\$1,644	1,022	\$1.61
Otisfield	\$4,028	\$728						\$4,756	1,680	\$2.83
Peru			\$97,151					\$97,151	1,522	\$63.83
Porter	\$2,000	\$1,505						\$3,505	1,582	\$2.22
Roxbury		\$2,500	\$26,684					\$29,184	384	\$76.00
Rumford		\$6,860	\$326,095			\$4,880		\$337,835	6,472	\$52.20
Sumner	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$2,000					\$4,000	854	\$4.68
Woodstock	\$4,446	\$3,000	\$22,827					\$30,273	1,353	\$22.37
Maine DOT	\$75,000	\$6,000	\$6,300					\$87,300		
County Totals	\$103,007	\$35,517	\$625,437	\$0	\$1,000	\$8,380	\$3,300	\$776,641	57,833	\$13.43
York County	\$10,000	\$9,400						\$19,400	-	
Acton	\$28,134	\$7,500						\$35,634	2,447	\$14.56
Alfred	\$10,000	\$3,000						\$13,000	3,019	\$4.31
Berwick	\$5,000	\$3,240			\$1,500			\$9,740	7,246	\$1.34
Biddeford	\$6,000	\$3,215			\$1,950			\$11,165	21,277	\$0.52
Buxton	\$10,000	\$8,000					\$2,000	\$20,000	8,034	\$2.49
Dayton	\$3,790				1			\$3,790	1,965	\$1.93
Eliot	\$16,645	\$9,720			\$6,700	\$18,655	\$1,000	\$52,720	6,204	\$8.50
Hollis	\$12,000	\$5,000						\$17,000	4,281	\$3.97
Kennebunkport	\$2,500	\$3,628						\$6,128	3,474	\$1.76
Kittery	\$4,000	\$12,466				\$7,110	\$2,000	\$25,576	9,490	\$2.70
Lebanon	\$40,000	\$15,000	\$3,500	\$	\$500	\$1,200		\$60,200	6,031	\$9.98
Limerick	\$8,500	\$8,800			1	,		\$17,300	2,892	\$5.98

			CA.	Total						
County/Town	А	В	С	D	E	F	G	Damage Estimate	2010 POP	Damage per Capita
Limington	\$16,000	\$2,400						\$18,400	3,713	\$4.96
Newfield	\$5,600	\$10,000						\$15,600	1,522	\$10.25
Ogunquit	\$5,000	\$10,000						\$15,000	892	\$16.82
Old Orchard Beach	\$3,000	\$5,300						\$8,300	8,624	\$0.96
Parsonsfield	\$75,695						·	\$75,695	1,898	\$39.88
Saco	\$11,200	\$21,742	\$12,055					\$44,997	18,482	\$2.43
Shapleigh	\$60,000	\$3,400			\$1,000			\$64,400	2,668	\$24.14
South Berwick	\$2,500	\$6,000	\$1,000		\$1,000			\$10,500	7,220	\$1.45
Waterboro	\$18,000	\$17,850						\$35,850	7,693	\$4.66
Wells	\$1,601	\$7,401					\$3,596	\$12,598	9,589	\$1.31
York	\$15,000	\$19,848	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$3,733	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$55,581	12,529	\$4.44
Maine DOT	\$75,000	\$4,000						\$79,000		
County Totals	\$445,165	\$196,910	\$22,555	\$7,000	\$16,383	\$27,965	\$11,596	\$727,574	197,131	\$3.69
Statewide Totals*	\$574,678	\$282,413	\$1,004,692	\$7,000	\$17,852	\$36,345	\$514,208	\$2,437,188	1,328,361	1.83

# ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

County	SBA* Home Loans	SBA* Business Loans	FSA Loans*	NRCS*	FHWA*	USACE*	OTHER*
Franklin							
Oxford						**	
York							

<sup>\*</sup>Requirements for these programs are still being determined.

## ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

### Governor's Certification

I certify that for this current disaster, State and local government expenditures and obligations will include the non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act. As stated in my basic letter, and based on information available at this time, tabulation of these estimated expenditures and obligations are as follows:

CATEGORY OF ASSISTANCE	AMOUNT			
	STATE	LOCAL		
Public Assistance:				
Category A: Debris Removal	\$86,202	\$57,468		
Category B: Emergency Protection Measures	\$42,362	\$28,241		
Category C: Roads and Bridges	\$150,704	\$100,469		
Category D: Water Control Facilities	\$1,050	\$700		
Category E: Buildings and Equipment	\$2,678	\$1,785		
Category F: Utilities	\$5,452	\$3,635		
Category G: Other (Parks, Recreational Facilities, etc.)	\$77,131	\$51,421		
Total	\$365,578	\$243,719		